



F/STOP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FEDERATION OF CAMERA CLUBS (NSW)

APRIL 2019

Federation of the Camera Clubs (NSW) Inc. PO Box 49 Macquarie Fields NSW 2564 www.photographynsw.org.au

Treasurer's Message

Russell Field

Treasurer / Public Officer / Competition Secretary.

It has been a very difficult year for health of our FCC committee members and their families. Currently our President, David Miller, is in hospital, and is expected to have an extended stay. We all send our best wishes to David for a speedy recovery, and our thoughts go out to his wife Beth and their family.

I would like to remind everyone that entries for Top Shot 2019 will close at 6:00PM Wednesday 17/04/2019 and **ALL PRINT ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED** at P.O. Box Macquarie Fields 2014, or be delivered to Jeff Akers or myself in person. See delivery and Top Shot details on page 2 of the newsletter.

While 2019 is not an election year for the FCC committee, there are currently 4 vacancies on the committee. In addition to this several of the current committee or their family members have had serious health events during the past 12 months. This has seriously impacted on the ability of the committee to provide the support required to keep YOUR FCC functioning.

As we now hold most of our meetings online you do not need to live in Sydney to attend meetings and help with management of your FCC. Please consider putting your name forward to assist on the FCC committee

Look forward to catching up at the TopShot Exhibition.

Yours In Photography, Russell Field

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 <p>"Zoo Poker" by Michelle Kennedy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOPSHOT 2019</p> 	 <p>"Egret & Long Tom" by Arthur Roy</p>
<p>Entries Open: 4 March Entries Close: 17 April</p>	<p>Host Club: St George Photographic Society St George Leagues Club 124 Princess Hwy Beverley Park NSW 2217 AGM & Exhibition starting 10:30am</p>	<p>Exhibition & Awards 26 May</p>

TOP SHOT 2019

If you intend to enter Top Shot, and have not entered yet, time is running out. Entries close on Wednesday the 17th of April at 6:00PM. To enter go to the FCC website where you will find all the information on the sections, conditions and cost per section. The link to the web site is <https://photonsw.myphotoclub.com.au/> .

Print entries must be delivered to Russell Field by post to P.O Box 49 Macquarie Fields. 2564, or can be delivered to him in person by arrangement. Russell can be contacted by email at fcctreasurer@photographynsw.org.au

Alternately prints can be delivered to Jeff Akers on Monday evening between 7:15 and 7:30PM before the Pennant Hills Photography Club meeting. The club meets at the the Pennant Hills Uniting Church, Corner of Boundary Ru and Bellamy St., Pennant Hills. If this is not possible contact him by email at fccfstopeditor@gmail.com to make alternate arrangements.

Don't forget to keep the 26th of May available to attend the exhibition of the print images and projection of the digital images at St George Club. This is a great opportunity to view the prints and projected images, meet photographers from other clubs, and meet representatives from some of our sponsors.

We would also like to see the member clubs well represented at the Federation of Camera Clubs N.S.W. annual general meeting which will be held before the exhibition at 10:30AM. As I have mentioned in previous issues, although this is not an election year for the FCC, we would be pleased to be able to fill vacant positions on the committee. This is a good opportunity for interested members of an associated club to put their name forward for consideration to fill one of the vacancies.

42ND NORTHERN ZONE CAMERA CLUBS CONVENTION

In the last issue we announced the Northern Zone Convention that will be held this year at the Macksville Ex Services Club, and is being hosted by the Nambucca Heads Camera Club.

For all those who are members of clubs in northern N.S.W. who wish to attend the northern zone conference, you can register by going to their web site <https://northnsw.myphotoclub.com.au/> . Registration forms are available by clicking on the registration tab on the right side of the home page. This is a great opportunity to meet other photographers from other clubs, hear some great talks from top speakers and enjoy photography with other likeminded people.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENTS

Maitland International Salon of Photography

The exhibition of the top images is still on at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High St. is till on, but closes on the 26th of May. The gallery will display 50 of the top images from the Salon as well as projected images. The gallery is open between 10:00AM and 5:00PM from Tuesday to Sunday. Take the opportunity to see it if you are in the Maitland area, or passing through.

HEAD ON Photo Festival.

We are about to be spoilt with a plethora of events and exhibitions held in conjunction with The Head On Photo Festival. Details are now available on the web site at <https://www.headon.com.au/> . The festival starts with the opening night on the 3rd of April, followed by over 100 photographic exhibitions open between the 4th and the 19th of April. The main center of the festival is around the festival hub at Paddington Town Hall and the Paddington Reservoir Gardens, but there will be events at galleries and art spaces all over Sydney and N.S.W.

The festival also incorporates some existing events that include the following displays.

Capturing Nature Exhibition – Australian Museum Sydney

At present the Australian Museum has a special exhibition of images taken between 1857 and 1893 to record the museum's collection. The Exhibition is now open now and will run until the 21st of July

The 45th wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition – The Australian National Maritime Museum

This Exhibition opened on the 7th of March and is running till the 25th of August. It contains 100 wildlife images selected from over 50,000 entries from photographers from all around the world. Check the galleries web site for the cost of tickets for this Exhibition at <https://www.sea.museum/> .



Photography Opportunities

April

There are still a number of events that are worth attending in April that will offer good opportunities for photographers.

Royal Easter Show

The Royal Easter Show is on at the Sydney Olympic Site until the 23rd of April. For more information go to the RAS web site at <https://dev.eastershow.com.au/> . For those interested in going it is a good idea to pre-purchase early bird tickets to save money see the options at <https://www.eastershow.com.au/tickets-deals/>

ANZAC Day – Thursday 25th of April

There are commemorations on ANZAC day all over NSW along with the dawn service at the Cenotaph, and the ANZAC parade in Sydney.

Sydney's ANZAC Day March gives participating veterans and the general public an opportunity to honour those who served in the defence of Australia or its interests, especially remembering those who paid the supreme sacrifice or otherwise suffered as a result of their service.

The ANZAC Day March begins at 9am at the intersection of Martin Place and Elizabeth Street. It travels down Elizabeth Street and finishes at the end of Hyde Park at Liverpool Street. At the conclusion of the parade, at approximately 12.30pm, a commemoration service is held next to The Pool of Remembrance at the ANZAC War Memorial in Hyde Park South

MAY

Wings over the Illawarra

This is advertised as the best annual air show in NSW, and will take place on the 4th and 5th of May at the Illawarra Regional Airport at Albion Park Rail. There is so much going on at the show it is best to check details at the website <https://www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au/> where you will find a program of events and ticket pricing.

This is an opportunity to get some great aviation images



Vivid Sydney

The full program of events for Vivid 2019 can now be found at the web site for the event at <https://www.vividsydney.com> . This year Vivid will run from Friday the 24th of May till Saturday the 15th of June. The program contains information about the various musical and cultural events, as well as the light installations at different locations around Sydney.

Myphotoclub

Are you looking for Photography competitions to enter? One way to find out what competitions are coming up is to go the Myphotoclub web site at <https://myphotoclub.com.au/> and click on the



Icon. This will open a list of all the clubs that use this site to host their web site as well as the national competitions that use the site for their competitions. This is not all nationals available to enter, but a good cross section.

The VIGEX International Print Salon 2019

This Salon is an international salon based in Geelong that has been held bi-annually since 1980. It is at present open for entries in six sections, Monochrome open, Colour open, Nature, Creative, Photo Travel and 'Differences in Society'. Entries will be accepted until the closing date on the 2nd of June 2019. Details on the salon and entry details can be found on their web site at <http://www.vigex.org.au/> .The salon is recognized by the FIAP, APS and the PSA

Aperture Photography Conference 2019

Just a reminder that the 2019 APETURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE will be held in the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour, Sydney, on the 22nd and 23rd of June this year. The conference will be hosted by Ray Martin and will include presentations by 6 top international speakers. There will also be panel discussions and interviews, workshops with professional photographers and trade displays. For those interested, go to <http://apertureaustralia.com.au/> for details of the conference, as well as pricing. You will also find information on the presenters and links to their web sites

In Memory – Athol Blake SSAPS.

It is with regret we record the passing of Athol Blake in last December only weeks after his 101st Birthday. Athol McKinley Christopher Robert Blake was the oldest member, and a Life Member of The Entrance Camera Club Inc. Athol joined the The Entrance Camera Club in 1971 and served as Secretary from 1972 to 1978, and then again from 1990 to 1996. He served as a Committee Member from 1978 to 1990 and again from 1997 to 1998. He was the club Treasurer during 1996 to 1997. He also served as Public Officer for Incorporation of The Entrance Camera Club from 1991 to 1998. Athol was awarded Life Membership 1981. His wife Beb was also awarded Life Membership in 1985.

He was a past member of the original YMCA Camera Circle as well as Life Member of: The Sydney International Exhibition of Photography, The Australian Photographic Society, The Australian Portfolio Photographic Society as well as The Federation of Camera Club's NSW Inc.

Athol's services to The Federation included, 1974 to 1994, as Delegate for The Entrance Camera Club. He served as Treasurer from 1979 to 1987, and as Secretary 1987 to 1990. He was a member of the committee in 1987 and 1989 that organized the inaugural Incorporation of the Federation of Camera Clubs NSW. In 1995 Athol was awarded Life Membership of the Federation Of Camera Clubs NSW.

Both active members of The Entrance, in 1997 Athol & Beb left their Killarney Vale house on the Central Coast, returning to where it all began for them, living out their lives together closer to family at the "Hawkesbury Village" Chapel St. Richmond. Beb passed away in October 2016.

My thanks to Len Brown's Sydney Harbour International "Recognition Of Photographers" link for some of these details.

Woolongong Camera Club 75th Anniversary Exhibition

The Woolongong Camera Club is presently holding an Exhibition at the Woolongong Art Gallery to commemorate the clubs 75th anniversary. The gallery is on the corner of Burelli and Kembla streets. The gallery is open from 10:00AM to 5:00PM Tuesdays to Fridays and 12 Noon to 4:00PM on weekends.

On the following page is a brief history of the Woolongong Camera Club, supplied by Bruce Shaw.

A Brief History of the Wollongong Camera Club (1944~2019)

2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of the current Wollongong Camera Club. I write current as there has been several other occasions when a Camera Club has been formed in Wollongong which are documented in the local Newspaper or Photographic Journals of the day. In 1898 the seeds for forming a camera club are mentioned in the newspaper. However, according to newspaper articles it appears that it didn't take root until 1907. In 1914 it is mentioned in the local Newspaper that a meeting "... of the newly formed Camera Club" took place. This Club was last reported in the local newspaper in 1924. In 1941 The Australasian Photo-Review had a small article about the first meeting of the Wollongong District Camera Club and was last reported in 1942. It is uncertain as to whether any of these are connected to each other, let alone to the current Wollongong Camera Club.

Early in 1944 Albert Chambers, with the encouragement of Keast Burks (Kodak's Australasian Photo Review Editor), took the first steps in forming a Camera Club when he approached interested people. The first formal meeting occurred on Saturday, April 22nd 1944 with nine people in attendance. Eric Flynn was elected President with Albert (Bert) Chambers elected as the Secretary/Treasurer. There were 13 Financial Foundation Members of this new Club.

The Early Days. The new Wollongong Camera Club held a number of Salon of Pictorial Photography (1945, 1946, 1948 and 1949, with the 1948 and 1949 Salons having RPS (Royal Photographic Society) Approval. Harold Cazneaux, Hon F.R.P.S. was the Selection Judge for 1947 when the Camera Club decided to run an Invitation International Salon. The 1949 Salon of Pictorial Photography was the first colour salon to be held in Australia. Unfortunately the 5th Salon was deferred, and then cancelled when suitable accommodation couldn't be found.

On the Club scene the first Print of the Year Competition (Monochrome Prints) was held in 1947 when Albert Chambers ARPS print "Air on a G String" was awarded the Top Print. Colour Photography was on the horizon. The Club conducted annual Exhibitions and in October 1949 held slide nights with a commentary and background music playing to a "packed house" whenever they were shown. These Exhibitions continued until 1957 when the general public begun to take their own colour slides and the dawn of television had an effect on the Club's membership. Membership peaked at 97 during this time. The first Colour Slide of the Year (1954) was "American Legation" by S. P Kennedy.

The Club continued to develop and introduced Colour Prints during the 1970s with the first Colour Print of the Year awarded to Bob Humble with his print, "Jim". The 1970s saw the introduction of the Mount Keira Scout Camp Instructional Weekend in 1977 again in 1979 and 1981. Guest speakers with outings into the rainforest kept the attendees occupied.

The 1980s was again a very busy time for the Club. An Invitation Only Exhibition was held in The Wollongong Art Gallery with prints from such photographers as: Yvonne Dynock; Kit Goninon FAPS; Lionel Howes AFIAP, ARPS, AAPS, ESFIAP; Max Johnson AFIAP, ARPS; Joy Klien AFIAP; Sylvia Leech FRPS, EFIAP, ESFIAP; Alan Piper; Elizabeth Lough; Vic Urban AFIAP, LAPS; Syd Wickham LAPS, SSAPS; Jean Wickham SSAPS; Alan Gray Hon. EFIAP, ARPS, APSA, AIAP; Dick Paul AFIAP, A.R.P.S and Wollongong being represent by Keith Smyth, Dieter Lepahe, Bob Humble and David Brooks, a "Who's Who" of photographers.

1982 Wollongong was the Australian Photographic Society's APSCON host, showcasing the Illawarra Region to APS members at their annual Convention, a very big challenge for the club. Without a doubt the highlight of the week was the lectures by Commander Richard Underwood from NASA Space Centre, Houston, Texas who was specially flown out for the occasion and 12 bank multi-projector presentations keeping the organizing committee on their toes. At the invitation of APS the Club has managed three APS Nationals (13th, 1988; 20th, 1995 and the 25th, 2000).

In 1987 an Audio Visual Group was formed, meeting monthly, to discuss and develop their AV Skills. This was small but enthusiastic group of 5 members. An AV of the Year Trophy was purchased with Richelieu du Plesis being the first Awardee with "It's Only A Small Planet". From this small Interest Group developed the Club's Video Group (1994) and finally the Movie Makers (2007).

The Club has continued to meet challenges head on: declining memberships; technology changes (digital and film); the way the members produced their prints compared to commercial 1 Hour Photo Huts. Digital photography has exposed the club to a wider membership base. The growth in women membership, some younger people is a direct result of the move from the darkroom to a computer based image editing and printing process, opening a new creative interpretation to the exciting world in which we live.

One of the backbones to any club is the members' service to maintain its functionality. At Wollongong there is a proud heritage of keeping the members, and the general public (via the web), informed through the Club's publications; Magazines, Photography Group Newsletter and Movie Makers Newsletters. During the club's history there have been four editors for the Magazine and Photography Group's Monthly Newsletter. The Movie Makers have also had several editors for their Newsletter since it commenced in the late 1990s. Quite an achievement for any club.

Our publications are best summed up by the winter of 1947's eight page magazine that was produced and in this Vol,1 No.1 the editorial read "This little paper has been got together as a means of binding the club together, of building up an esprit de corps, of interesting members in one another. It tells the little experiences of members; with a word of praise here, a touch of criticism there, it keeps in front of members the fact that they belong to a camera club, that their interests are shared by others and that together they can get greater enjoyment from their hobby

April 2019 is upon the Club and the plans for its 75th Anniversary are well underway. There is a public Exhibition of Prints, both current members and Club Archive Images, the production of the club's history in video form, exposition of members' video and AV productions and Photographic Equipment display at the Wollongong City Art Gallery. At the Wollongong Central Library there is also a Display showcasing the world of photography to the public.

No Club can exist without its members' enthusiasm. It's heartening to look back to our former members with gratitude for the legacy they have provided; to the current members for their inspiration and enthusiasm and to the future with hope and encouragement that the Club will continue to evolve meeting the future challenges ahead.

Bruce Shaw President 2019, Wollongong Camera Club

Photo Blending to Reduce Noise

Written for F/Stop by Tony Strasser, Pennant Hills Photographic Club

Modern digital cameras' digital sensor noise performance has improved vastly over the quarter century since they became commonly available to consumers. Shooting at high ISO settings is sometimes a necessity, particularly in dark settings such as the night sky or in a structure that has little light and where using a flash is not possible. Notwithstanding the improved performance, digital sensor noise still becomes apparent at high ISO settings, particularly if the sensor size is small. Noise manifests as light-coloured pixels, resembling fine dust, scattered randomly across the image giving it a dirty and grainy appearance. Treating digital noise in image post-processing using noise filters is often less than satisfactory as the method used to make noise less visible is to blur pixels into each other, losing image sharpness and detail in the process.

Astro-photographers commonly use a technique called photo-stacking or image blending to combat noise and to bring out the details in images. This technique can also be used to treat almost any kind of low light photo, provided the subject isn't moving relative to the camera and the photographer makes the necessary in-camera preparations. This article discusses how to use the technique.

Step 1 – Take Multiple Photos When the Scene is Dark

When confronted by a dark scene requiring high ISO or a long exposure to capture adequately, take multiple shots – at least 4 to 6 is recommended – without moving the camera. It is best to use a tripod, but a steady hand propping the lens barrel will suffice. Tripods are often not welcome in historical buildings and many other places so steady hand-held photography becomes a necessary skill. A reasonable technique is to use aperture priority and set ISO to automatic, so the fastest possible shutter speed is used. Many cameras have setting to limit the ISO and shutter speeds, so using these settings helps to avoid taking unusable photos. Manually setting aperture and shutter speed works too. Compounding lack of light with blur because the shutter is too slow will not result in a good photo, except maybe where blur is appreciated in the creative category!

Here are three photos taken in quick succession in one of the Coal Loader tunnels at Balls Head in Sydney. They are taken with a Canon 5D Mk2 at 12800 ISO.



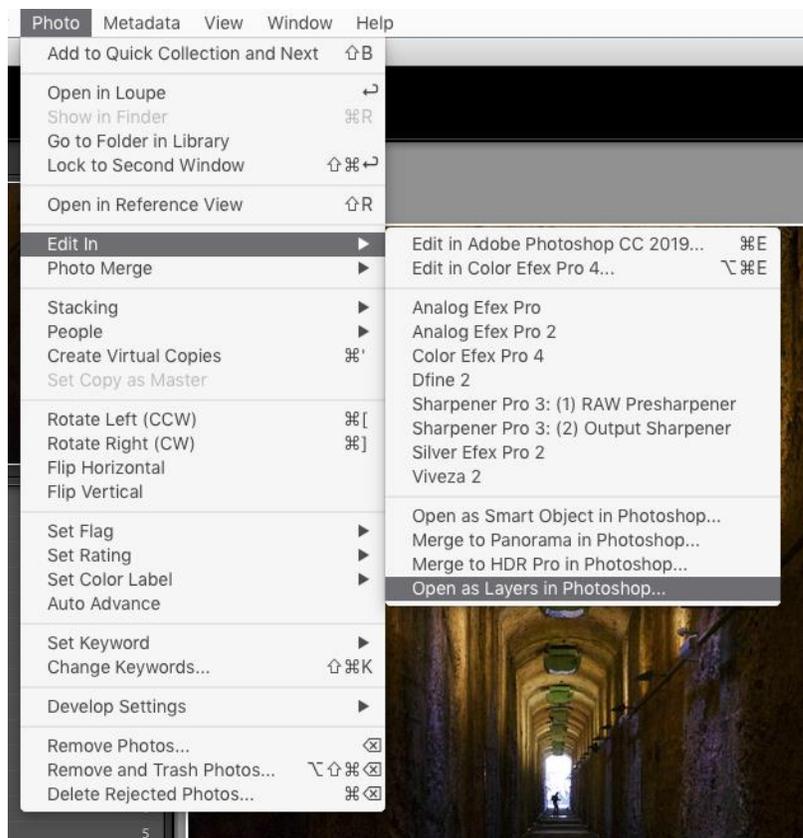
The idea is that camera noise is randomly distributed across the photo, and is particularly visible in the darker areas, but the scene being photographed is steady. By averaging each pixel across these multiple images, we will enhance the desired parts of the image and the random noise will be averaged out.

Step 2 – Image Stacking and Blending to Reduce Noise

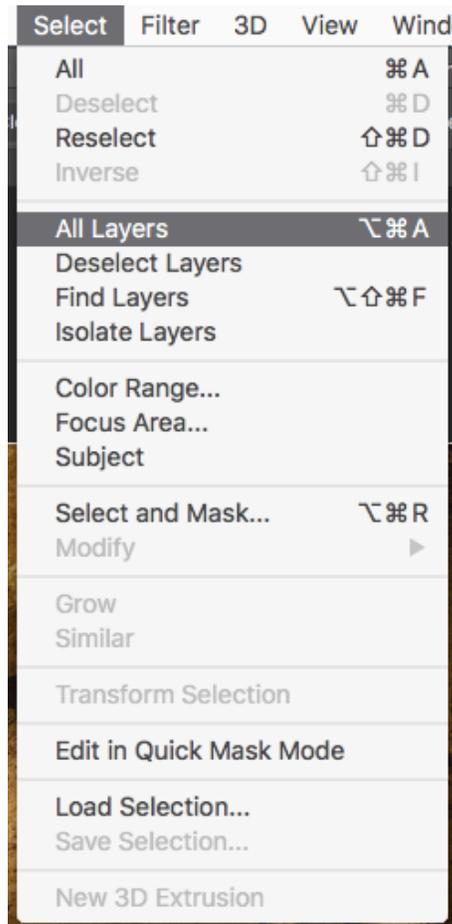
The next stage occurs in post-processing, in this example using Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop.

In Lightroom import the multiple images, select them all, and open them as layers in Photoshop.

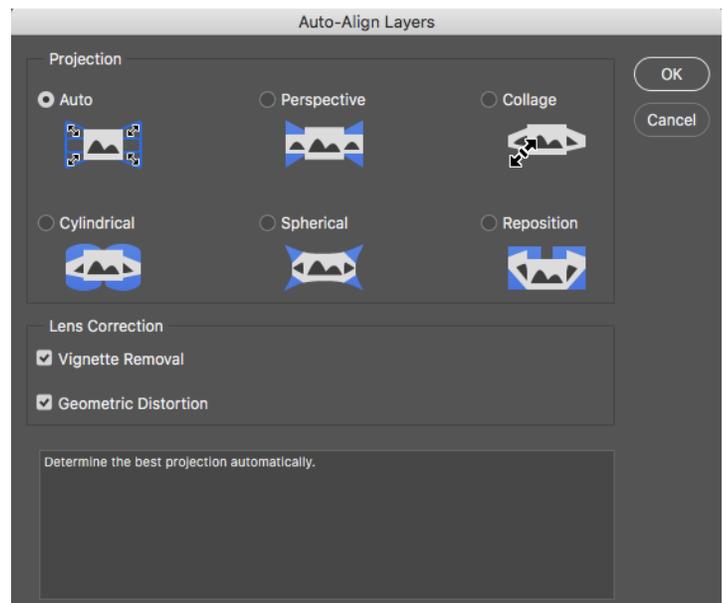
Alternatively, open them directly in Photoshop using the menu command File/Scripts/Open Files as Stack.

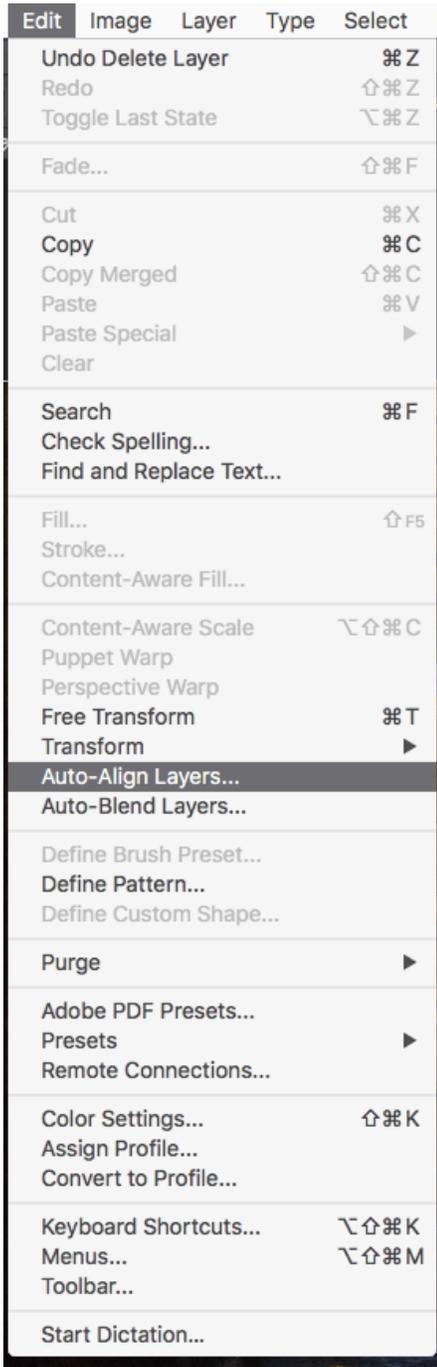


Then, in Photoshop, select all layers:



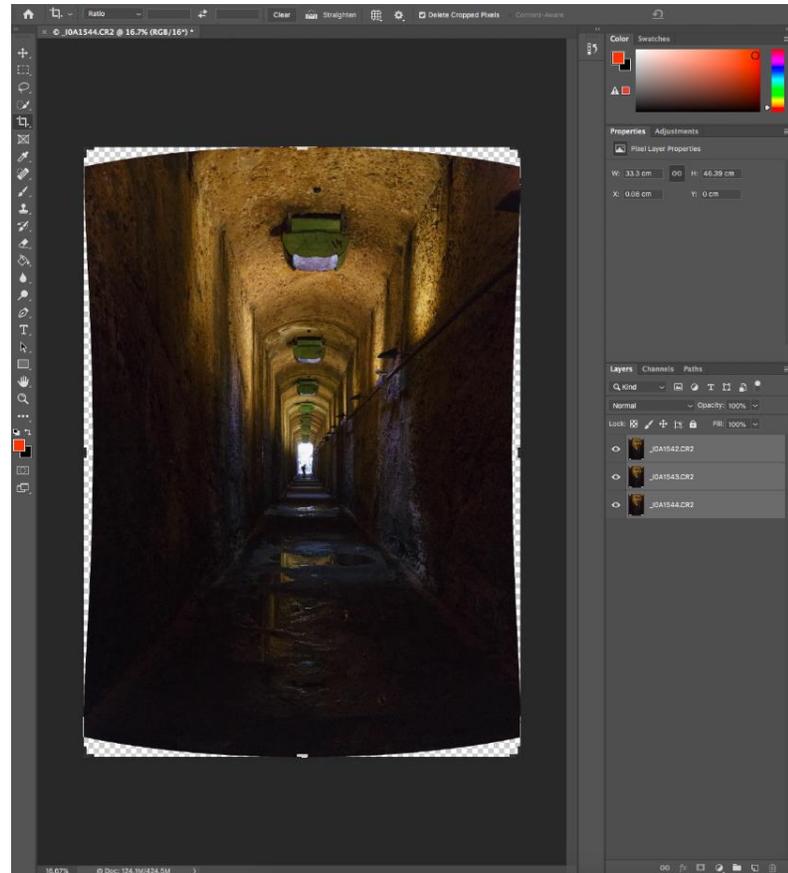
In Photoshop, auto-align the layers to ensure the scene is perfectly aligned in the stack and any camera movement is compensated for. Use the Auto Projection option and select Vignette





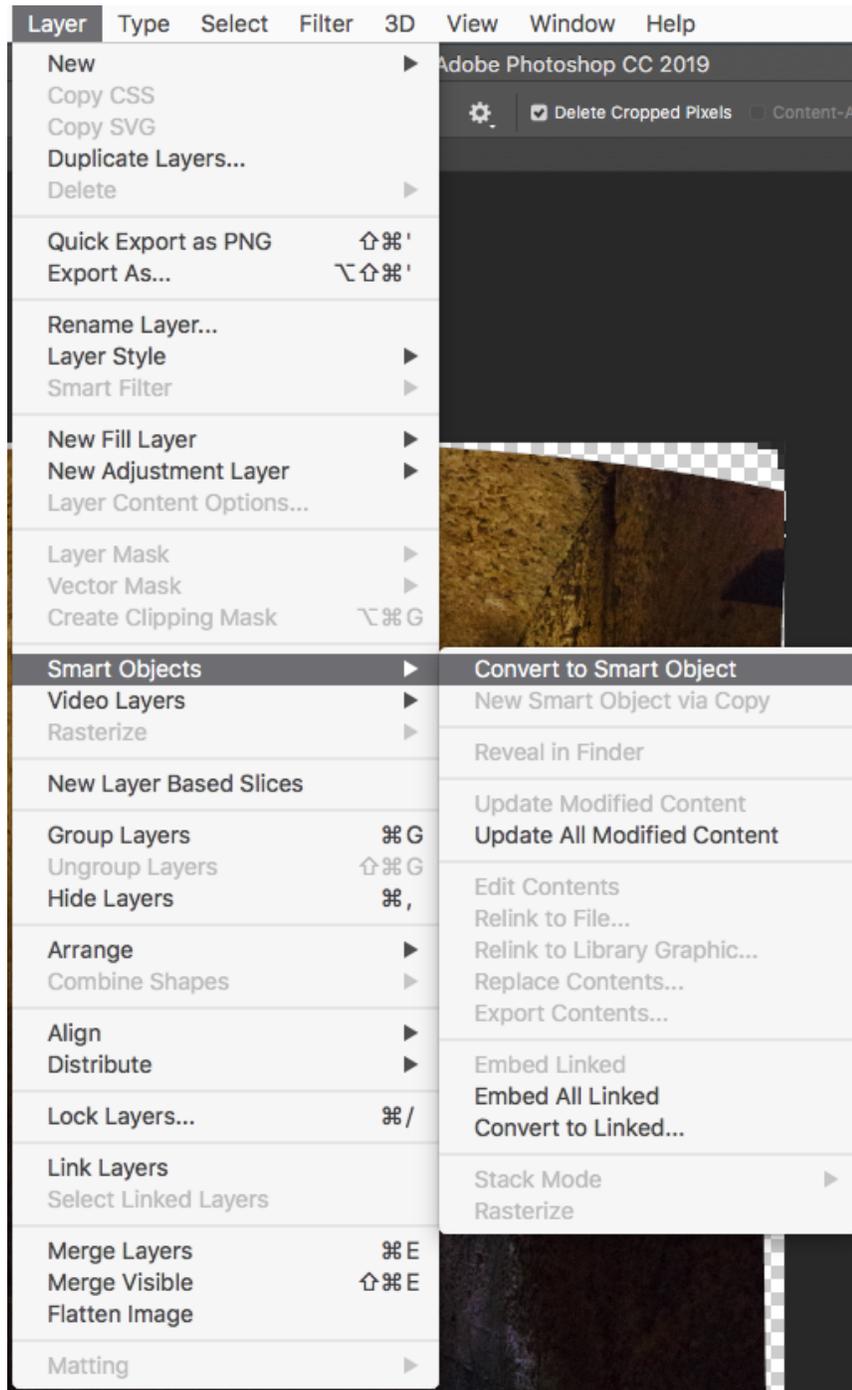
Removal and Geometric Distortion lens corrections.

The resulting image stack should appear similar to this image:

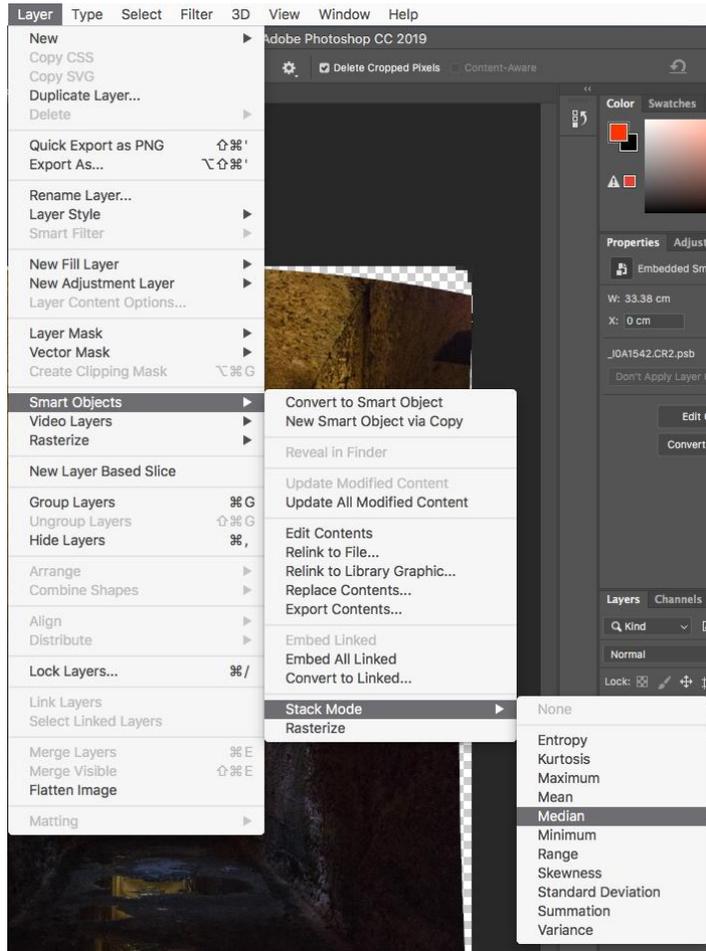


Continued next page

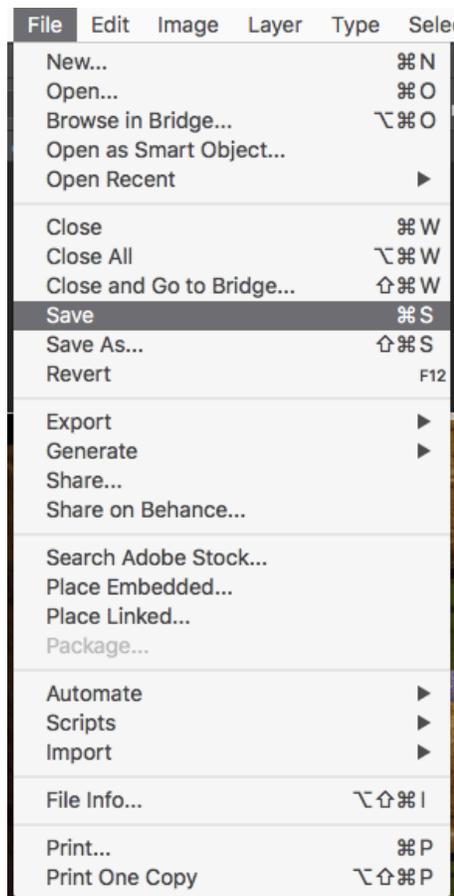
Convert the layer stack to a Smart Object:



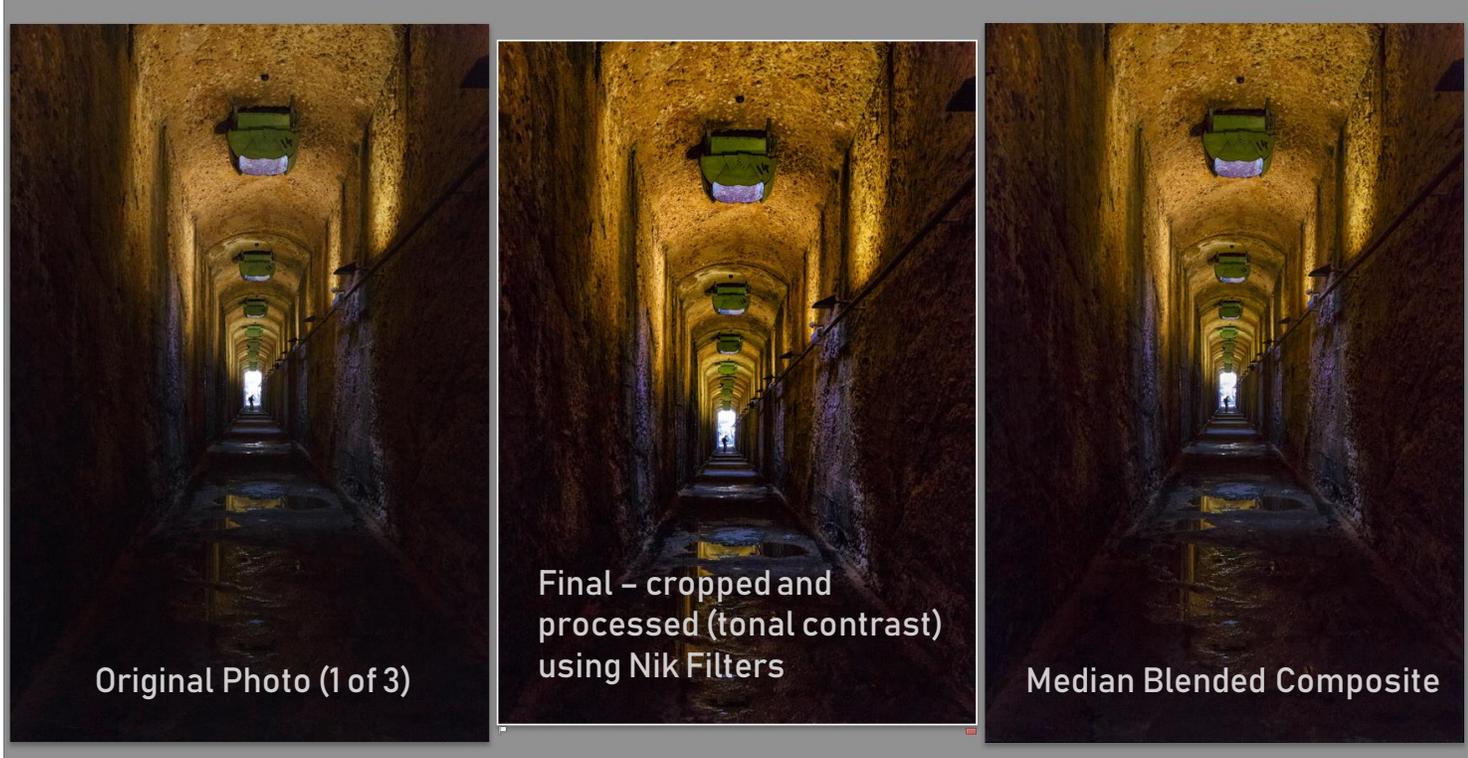
Perform a Median blend on the image stack smart object. This performs a mathematical operation to calculate the median value for every corresponding pixel in the image stack. Pixels that represent noise are anomalous and will not appear as most of the pixels in the stack will reflect the true representation in the scene being photographed. Median and Mean will yield similar results.



Finally, save the image (in Lightroom which will have converted the stacked images to TIFF or DNG files), or if using Photoshop directly Save As a TIFF, DNG or a PSD file.



Then proceed to post-process the resulting file as you would any other image.



Other Applications of Photo Stacking and Blending

While Median blending is useful to remove noise, it may be put to other uses too:

- When trying to take a static scene where lots of people are milling about, take several shots on a tripod over a longer period. The people will all have moved between shots. Median blending these scenes will remove most of the people because they are moving, revealing the background scene.
- Moving water can also be treated in this way giving an appearance similar to that resulting from a long exposure with a neutral density filter. A handy technique when you don't have an ND filter with you or don't have or cannot use a tripod.

Using Maximum or Minimum blending also has some uses:

- Making a composite of a moving object such as sparse fireworks, moving lights or fireworks, or a bouncing ball. Use Maximum blending if the object is a light or a bright object against a dark background, however there is a risk that noise will be enhanced. Use Minimum blending when the moving object is dark against a lighter background.

Below is an example of Maximum blending of multiple images of fireworks.



Further Reading

There are a few articles online that cover the same topic but with other examples:

- <https://www.lightstalking.com/reduce-noise-shooting-multiple-exposures/>
- <https://petapixel.com/2013/05/29/a-look-at-reducing-noise-in-photographs-using-median-blending/>

Thanks to Tony for this article. It is based on a presentation that Tony prepared for the Pennant Hills Photography Club earlier in the year.

I welcome any articles that I can include in F/Stop.



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<https://www.facebook.com/federationofcameraclubs>



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F/Stop News and Article Contribution

The F/Stop newsletter depends on your contributions. If you have any articles that may be of interest to our members, please email them to – fcceditor@photographynsw.org.au .

Articles could include: Camera hints, Photoshop hints, travel, nature or sport photography and/or local photoshoots. Also information on awards, competitions, exhibitions, or on upcoming events, workshop, event reports, or book reviews etc.

Don't be limited by this list! Anything that might interest photographers is acceptable.

Please send articles in Microsoft word or plain text format with photos attached as separate files. Submitted images should be a jpg file with a maximum size of 50 – 80kb.

In order to ensure your article is included in the next newsletter, please submit it by the 20th of the month.

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General Committee Members	Jeff Akers Alan Hitchell
Webmaster (non-committee position)	The website is maintained and administered by the Myclub website administrator under instructions from the F.C.C. committee

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